RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Department of Natural Resources Room 1050 October 8, 2002

Minutes

Member Present:

Others Present:

LOWE, Mike - UGS

WRIGHT, Carolyn - GOPB/DNR

SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill - Water Rights
KAPPE, Karl – DFFSL
CARTER, Kevin - SITLA
PAYNE, Val – DNR
SOWARDS, Glade – Utah Energy Office
CANNING, Michael - DWR
PITKIN, Jay – DEQ – Water Quality
PARKER, Randy - Agriculture
JUSINO, Cesar – NRCS
KEENE, Mike – Science Advisor
JOHNSON, Wes – DPR

LANDURETH, Brenda - DNR/ADMIN DELOS-SANTOS. Annette - BLM

I. Approval of Minutes

Bill Schlotthauer called the meeting to order at approximately 9:06 a.m. Wes Johnson made a motion to approve the September 10, 2002 minutes. Mike Lowe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Report from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved 8.7 million dollars for threatened and endangered species habitat acquisition in Washington County. Wes Johnson stated that most of the funding will be spent in State Parks. Habitat acquisition projects include four parcels of School and Institutional Trust Lands property near Snow Canyon and the 2.8 million dollar Kunes acquisition, which is in the process of closing.

Mike Canning announced that the Division of Wildlife Resources plans to restore wet meadow habitats in the Gordon Creek Wildlife Management Area and other areas in the Price River Drainage.

Drought conditions this year resulted in a 50 to 100 percent stocking reduction of livestock and wildlife has also been heavily impacted in southern Utah. A federally funded program has been established to assist livestock producers.

Annette Delos-Santos announced that the Vernal, Richfield and Price resource management planning (RMPs) processes are ongoing and on schedule. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will brief the Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC) on the Moab and Monticello RMP processes.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently reviewing BLM and the U.S. Forest Service's Wild and Scenic River proposal. No comment deadline has been announced. It is anticipated that the scoping process will begin in January 2003.

Cesar Jusino announced that Utah will be receiving 18 million dollars from the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, approximately 12 to 14 million will be dedicated to provide financial assistance to local producers. Development plans are in progress with producers and should be available in January. Funding will be available in January. The Agricultural Management Assistance Program will be receiving 1.5 million this year and approximately 1.2 million will provide financial assistance to local landowners. Natural Resource Conservation Service is working with TechPro entities or third party vendor to develop training needs to certify private individuals (application and implementation of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans and on practice standards and specifications).

Randy Parker, announced that the Utah Department of Agriculture is in the middle of an inventory of concentration animal feeding operations that have an impact on water quality impacts with limited state resources federal funding has been very helpful. Approximately15-18 percent of the assessments have water quality problems and will require technical and financial assistance. Federal funding will be available for five years from the Farm Bill. Water quality problems have been more difficult to address this year due to drought conditions resulting in low instream flows. Conservation partners are working with UDA.

Karl Kappe announced that fire restrictions have been lifted and it is the time of the year for foresters to initiate prescribed fire projects. These projects on state lands will be reviewed by RDCC.

A seeding project for fire rehabilitation in the Books Cliffs area is in currently in progress.

Bill Schlotthauer announced that the Division of Water Resources will now require all title updates and revisions be completed prior to processing any change applications. This will impact private individuals or agencies involved in water rights acquisition and exchange projects.

On August 29, 2002, RDCC received comments from UGS on Bear Lake, Pleasant Creek and Spring Canyon projects.

Val Payne stated that DNR supports the Division of Wildlife Resources position regarding project proposal number #2159 on the RDCC Project Management System.

III. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on November 12, 2002, at 9:00 a.m., at the Department of Natural Resources, in room 1050. Glade Sowards will conduct the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.